

Step 6 Stepping

Step 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends,

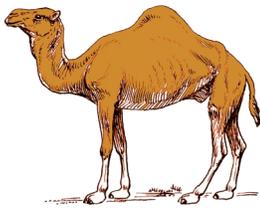
doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished, It was lifted right out of me.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63

Tradition 6 Long Form

“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

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Stepping Stones is a monthly newsletter of the Ninth District Intergroup with the office located at: 4224 College St, Beaumont, TX 77707. It is about, by and for the members of the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are Not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or the Ninth District Intergroup.

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Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should related themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

Grapevine Online Exclusive

Facing Our Fears

His group was supporting an outside event.
Who would speak up?
Would he?



I'm grateful that when I came into AA there were plenty of good examples around to teach me the principles we are to practice in order to change our lives. The man who became my sponsor was talking at coffee one day about how he'd been studying the Twelve Traditions and learning to practice them in his daily life. I was interested and listened to what he had to say, although I really thought the Twelve Traditions had no practical application on a personal level and were certainly for people with more sobriety than I had. I secretly figured maybe someday I would "graduate" to the Traditions after I had "mastered" the Twelve Steps. After all, they came after the Steps in the "Twelve and Twelve."

This man talked about placing the common welfare of his family above his own wants and desires, and of placing the welfare of his employer's business and the team above his own selfish desires for personal success. He explained the concept of self-support in a way that I had not heard before by describing the spiritual principle of recovering alcoholics paying our own way in society. The more he talked, the more interested I became. I began discussing these principles with this

man while we began to work the Steps. I didn't wait until after I took the Steps to learn.

One thing that he told me regarding Tradition Twelve was that someday one of the toughest things I would have to do would be to stand up for these principles and lovingly place them before the personalities in a whole group and tell them that I felt that they were wrong. He said that I would someday be the minority voice and that I would have to walk through the fear of rejection that plagued me because nobody else would do it for me.

That day did come at a Saturday night meeting I had grown to love. It was full of long-timers and AAs whose sobriety I greatly respected. The format for the meeting was that you received a ticket when you walked in and the first half of the meeting was a discussion by lottery. If your ticket was pulled you got to go to the podium and share on any recovery topic or experience that week relating to how you stayed sober. The second half was a speaker meeting with a break in-between.

During the readings and all the things we do to open a meeting the basket was passed. Then the chairperson announced that a second basket was going around for the Oak Street Center Children's Christmas Party. I was sitting in the front row so he brought one of the baskets to me and one to another person in the front row. It was expected of us to walk the basket around the room to help it get all the way to the back and then to the podium safely. As I took the basket I felt great anxiety and looked at the Twelve Traditions hanging on the wall. Tradition Six seemed brighter than the others. Here was a great cause—children at Christmas. They were our children too, because the Oak Street Center was a clubhouse where AA meetings were held. I suppose it could be rationalized that this was not an outside enterprise, but my heart said it was. A clubhouse is a related facility and the children were not AA members. I handed the basket to the guy next to me and said, "I can't participate in this."

The anxiety was growing as I felt I had to do something about this. But what? I

am a people pleaser in the extreme. If I said something, I feared these people would tell me I was out of line and I wouldn't have their approval. Nobody else seemed troubled by it as I watched money dropping into the basket.

As I stewed over the dilemma, the meeting began and went on as usual. However, God had a plan for me this night and my ticket number was called. My palms were sweaty as I stood up because I knew what I had to do. I had to stand up in front of a room full of longtime sober people whom I greatly respected and be the one to say that this was wrong. I said a quick prayer on my way to the podium. When I got there I took a deep breath and did it. I don't remember exactly what I said, but it was very well received...until the break. At the break I was approached by several members of the majority, who tried to "educate" me, told me that I was mistaken, and began sharing their perception of the truth.

In the light of all of this wisdom freely given to me by well-meaning old-timers, I did not change my vote or my mind. What actually happened is that I began a dialogue about the issue and the group conscience eventually decided not to pass a second basket for outside causes.

Several spiritual principles were interwoven into this situation, but I owe the entire outcome to God. He prepared me by helping me become familiar with Tradition Six and how these principles work for our good and the good of the Fellowship. If not for the Twelve Steps I would not have had the faith to face my fear and be a minority voice. I did not yet know of the Twelve Concepts as spiritual principles, but I began to learn of the importance of the minority voice to the good of AA before I knew it was a spiritual principle. All of our legacies are supported by each other. It is never too soon to begin learning and practicing all of the principles in "all of our affairs."

Roger W. | Honolulu, Hawaii

Group Contributions — processed through May 25th 2020

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$402.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$20.00	\$40.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$26.90	Pin Oak Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Port Arthur	\$37.28	\$37.28	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$229.60	\$229.60
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fannett Grace	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$181.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$50.00	\$50.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$336.88	\$966.78

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:
 Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4224 College St — Beaumont, TX 77707
 Phone: 409-832-1107 — Fax: 409-898-8977 — E-mail: intergroup9@att.net — Web: aabeaumont.org
 If you see mistakes, please call, write or come in. We want to be accurate and ask that you verify your totals.**

Would You Be On Our 12 Step List?

Home Group: _____

Name: (Please Print) _____ Male/Female: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Area In Which You Will Serve: _____

Car Available: Yes _____ No _____ Languages Spoken _____

Times Available: (Circle Choices Please) 8 AM – 6 PM 6 PM – 12 MDN 12 MDN – 8 AM

Days Available: (Circle Choices Please) SU M TU W TH F SA

Addresses AA Entities

Ninth District Intergroup
 4224 College St
 Beaumont, TX 77707

District 90 GSR Committee
 PO Box 21279
 Beaumont, TX 77720-1279

Southeast Texas Area 67
 PO Box 130433
 Houston, TX 77219-0433

AA General Service Office
 PO Box 459
 New York, NY 10163-0459

Opportunities For Service

SHARE THE MESSAGE IN THE COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL FACILITIES

We need men and women to go into the County jail on Sat. @ 11:30 each week. There is also a need for men to go into the State and Federal facilities on a weekly basis or even just once a month to give current volunteers a much needed break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. To find out more information please come to the monthly GSR meeting and talk with the correction committee members or call Intergroup @ 409-832-1107.

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

We need volunteers to go into both the men and the women's facilities.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

June 28th , 2020 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

Cancelled Until Further Notice

Westgate Memorial Baptist Church

6220 Westgate Drive Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

The June 28th GSR meeting will be in person at the Crockett street location. Social distancing on seating is set up, and masks are recommended.



MID-COUNTY GROUP 43RD ANNIVERSARY



**Come Join Us to celebrate
our Group Anniversary**

9am - Donut Meeting

Open discussion

10:15 Registration

11am - AA Speaker - TBA

12:30 - Lunch Served

2pm - Alanon Speaker - TBA

3pm - Washer Board Tournament

6pm - Dinner

7:30pm - AA Speaker - TBA

9pm - Raffle

September 12, 2020 All Day event

908 Boston, Nederland Tx. 409-722-5911



Happy Birthday To You!!!

Congratulations to all who have celebrated Birthday's during these challenging times.

~ Stepping Stones ~

If you would like to receive a chip for your Birthday that was missed see announcement below.

Mid County Group

June 9,2020 Speaker 8:00pm

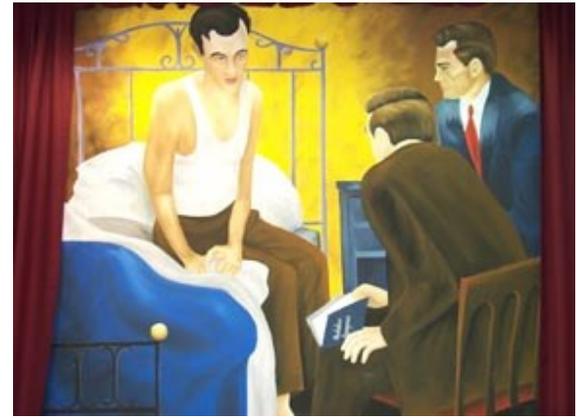


June 16,2020 March Birthday's
Eat 7:00pm / Meeting 8:00pm

June 23,2020 April & May Birthday's
Eat 7:00pm / Meeting 8:00pm

June 30,2020 June Birthday's
Eat 7:00pm / Meeting 8:00pm
Everyone invited to celebrate

Call Dan [728-3474](tel:728-3474) to be included on Birthday list if you missed celebrating your Birthday in March , April, May !



6th Step Principle

Willingness

6th Promise

**That feeling of uselessness
and self-pity will
disappear.**



**We are not a
glum lot.**